

In the claims:

Kindly rewrite the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Sluice system for a vacuum coating facility for coating substrates ~~that can be moved through the vacuum coating~~ facility in at least one direction of conveyance, with comprising:

a prevacuum sluice chamber to which a prevacuum pump system ~~can be detachably is~~ connected by means of a first selectively activatable valve arrangement, ~~characterized such that~~ and a high-vacuum pump system (12) ~~is detachably~~ connected to the prevacuum sluice chamber (2) by means of a second selectively activatable valve arrangement (16) ~~and~~, the second valve arrangement (16) ~~can be being~~ activated and deactivated inversely to the first valve arrangement (11).

2. (Currently amended) Sluice system according to Claim 1, ~~characterized such that~~ wherein the prevacuum pump system (6) ~~exhibits comprises~~ at least one Root pump (7) as a main pump (8) and at least one rotary slide-valve pump (9) as a backing pump (10).

3. (Currently amended) Sluice system according to Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized such that~~ wherein the high-vacuum system (12) ~~exhibits comprises~~ at least one turbo-molecular pump (13) as a main pump (14), and at least one backing pump arrangement (19), which corresponds to the a backing pump arrangement of the prevacuum pump system (12).

4. (Currently amended) Sluice system according to Claims Claim 1 to 3, ~~characterized such that~~ wherein the prevacuum pump system (6) ~~can be detachably connected is~~ selectively connectable to the high-vacuum system (12).

5. (Currently amended) Sluice system according to Claim 4, ~~characterized such that~~ wherein the prevacuum pump system (6) ~~can be activated in such a way that it is directly is~~ selectively connected to the prevacuum sluice chamber (2) in a first operating state and, alternatively ~~to this~~, is activated in a second operating state as a backing pump arrangement (19) of the high-vacuum pump (12), whereby and wherein the high-vacuum pump system (12)

~~exhibits comprises~~ a support pump (15), which is activated in the first operating state as a backing pump arrangement (19) of the high-vacuum pump system (12).

6. (Currently amended) Sluice system according to Claim 5, characterized such that ~~the~~ ~~wherein~~ a pressure side of ~~the-a~~ main pump (14) of the high-vacuum pump system (12) is connected to ~~the-an~~ intake side of the support pump (15) and detachably connected to ~~the-an~~ intake side of ~~the-a~~ main pump (8) of the prevacuum pump system (6) in parallel to the support pump (15) by means of a bypass line (17) and a bypass valve (18), ~~whereby and wherein~~ the bypass valve (18) ~~can be~~ is activated inversely to the first valve arrangement (11).